

#6 UNIT 0238

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Gott Road
Princeton, West Virginia 24740



HS 298

May 18, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK F. McMANUS
Subdistrict Manager

FROM: S. E. GASPERSICH
Coal Mine Safety Specialist

SUBJECT: Report of Investigation of Coal Outburst, Beatrice
Mine, Beatrice Pocahontas Company, Keen Mountain,
Buchanan County, Virginia, April 12, 1978

RECEIVED
JUN 01 1978
M. E. S. A.
Richlands, Virginia 24641

A coal outburst occurred about 12 noon, April 12, 1978, along the outby rib of the chain pillar about 120 feet southwest of station No. 8484 No. 1 south section in the subject mine. There were no personal injuries or damage. Carl E. Duty, Federal inspector on daily assignment in this mine, was notified of the incident and made a preliminary investigation promptly. I was scheduled to visit the section the following day to renew the charts on the recording instruments that monitored the pressure at selected sites and check mining progress and conditions. After arrival in the section via mantrip, I was joined by C. E. McGraw, coal mine inspection supervisor, and Duty during the investigation.

On the day of the event, the section crew directed by Cecil Keene, section foreman, was engaged in mining the last wing and pushout of Pillar A (see attached sketch). The pushout was attacked and the continuous-mining machine operated by Herman Hart was in a neutral position awaiting the arrival of a shuttle car when the outburst occurred along the outby rib of Pillar B. During mining of the pushout, Keene, Jerry Justus, continuous-mining machine helper, Leonard Miller, roof-bolting machine operator, and Claude Bartley, scoop operator, were in the vicinity after delivering and installing cribs and posts for protection against the dangers of a pillar fall. After ascertaining that ventilation and ventilation controls were satisfactory, mining of the pushout was completed.

On April 7, 1978, Duty accompanied me after the miners returned to work under the new contract to become familiar with the destressing plan for this section and found mining sequences and conditions in accordance with the plan during his preliminary investigation. During my investigation,

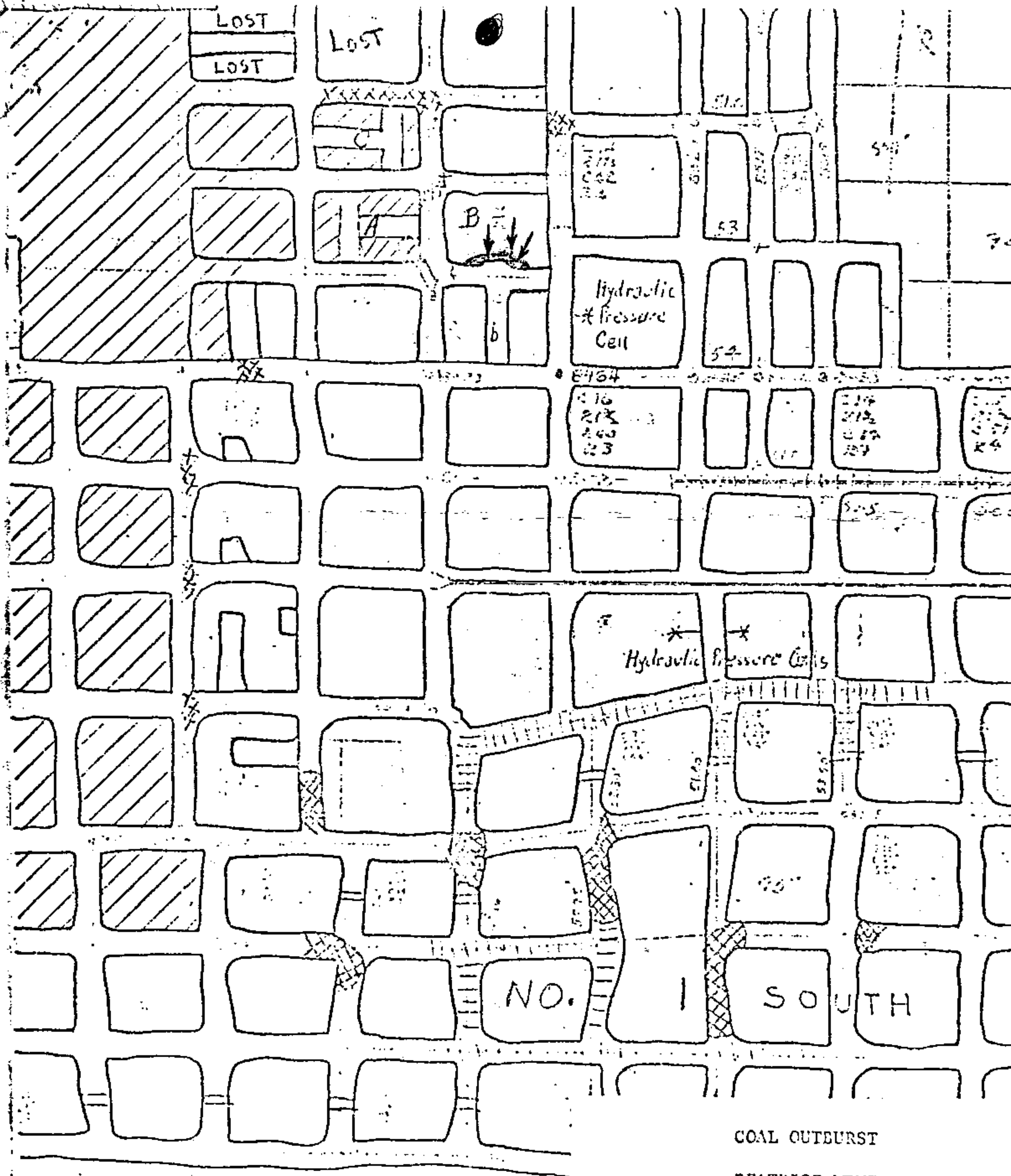
this condition was confirmed. Pillar B was part of a large pillar that was developed by driving split b into the narrow rib in conjunction with the primary split in Pillar C. This was completed in advance of the extraction of Pillars A and C. The bump incident was indicated on the chart by a slight rise in unit pressure on the adjacent pillar.

The factors and combinations thereof that influence bump potential are variable and not readily apparent; therefore, certain accepted procedures are followed to avoid and/or minimize the hazards of outbursts. In this instance, the large pillar was reduced in advance and exposure along the long dimension of a pillar significant in size (50 feet or more in the least dimension) was avoided. The loss of wings and a pillar along the longwall pillar line, the hard floor along Pillar B, and the destressing effected by driving split b may have preloaded Pillar B to its capacity prior to final recovery of Pillar A. No recommendations were made; however, close attention will be continued to mining large pillars.

Attachment
Sketch of Coal Outburst Area

cc: H. Potter

S. E. Gaspersich



BEATRICE MINE

BEATRICE POCAHONTAS COMPANY

KEEN MOUNTAIN, BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

April 12, 1978

Scale 1" = 10'